

Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, April 12, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

Private

Paris, April 12, 1835.

My Dear Genl, Your kind letter by Captain Elliot gives me so much pleasure, that I sit down to answer it immediately although it can not go for some days to come. I wanted the unqualified approbation of my conduct which it contains to make me sure that I had done right and I am the more satisfied with having conquered my first desire to go, since I find that my answer to the Cte De Rignys Note takes the proper national ground which is approved by you, and my friends the V. President and the Secretary of State. Had I left Paris that answer could not have been prepared; for after receiving my passports, which I must have asked for immediately, I could have had no further official correspondence with this Government. I regret with you that it did not occur to me to introduce Mr. McLanes letter, it would have strengthened my argument very much. Some occasion may perhaps yet offer of producing it. I am very glad you determined to make it public. It has been republished here, and as it contains a true and connected account of your actions and motives has I think produced a very good Effect upon all who can read English, but not one of the fifteen or twenty newspapers here would publish a translation of it—The opposi[ti] on because it placed our cause in a favorable point of view, The ministerials for the obvious reason that it places their patrons in the wrong, and because they participate in no small degree in the prejudices, which exist here against our Country. To get a proper idea of this, let two or three numbers be taken at hazard of each of the ten or twelve Daily

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papers which I send to the Department of all parties and all shades of party, let the leading Articles in each be translated for your consideration and you will see how our nation is spoken of by all without exception and it is from such representations that all the rest of Europe as well as France must form their opinion of us. This is highly mortifying and the manner in which we are treated in the Chambers is if possible still worse. And to all this we have no means of reply; a small sum would give us a permanent access to a paper by means of which these Calumnies might be repelled: but as I have said not one of them will now insert a line in our favor as I have more than once experienced to my great vexation and trouble. A few lines published would have given a satisfactory answer to misrepresentations in the Chamber, which I have been obliged to give to several members individually at their solicitation.

You will doubtless be surprised to learn that I am still here, and that the law for carrying our treaty into effect has not yet passed or rejected. It is now under discussion, the Debate began three days ago, and will not finish I fear before the packet sails on the 16th. The opposition is very violent, but there is every reason to believe that it will be ineffectual and that the law will pass but by a majority not so large as was some time since expected: I will keep my letter open to give you the latest intelligence

16th. The Debate still continues and with increased violence and misrepresentation on the part of the Opposition. The ground they take is now that the treaty ought to be rejected because they owe nothing and as you will perceive from the following extract from the speech of their principal orator that they have nothing to fear from a rejection. Mr. Berryer¹ yesterday said speaking of the consequences that had been produced from the former rejection, "The treaty was rejected last year when we knew less of it than we do now. This [did] not produce a war then, and congress has just adjourned in a temper which leaves us nothing to apprehend, our manufacturers are not thrown out of employ" etc. The minister of the

1 Antoine Pierre Berryer, the most eminent orator in the French Chamber of Deputies.

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interior has just finished a most powerful speech in favor of the treaty in which he has vindicated triumphantly the characters of our nation so basely assailed by the Opposition. I have still the best hopes that the law will pass.

We have all been very much concerned to hear of Major Donelsons illness. pray assure him and his family of the affectionate interest we take in whatever concerns them.

I am my Dear General with the truest attachment,